

Summary of Comments Received Before CR102 Filed Deaths

Comments were received from 23 stakeholders. Nine of the respondents were funeral directors. Some stakeholders commented on more than one item and some items were commented on by more than one stakeholder. The following describes how the comments were handled by the Center for Health Statistics (CHS).

In all, 52 suggestions were received.

10 stakeholders asked to have the size of the certificate kept to 8 ½ by 11 inch paper size. In addition, a survey was sent to all local county registrars and there was overwhelming response from this against the use of a legal size document. After discussing this issue with NCHS, CHS decided to use a letter size death certificate along with a letter size worksheet for funeral directors to use. The size of the certificate was reduced by removing many of the check boxes, but the check boxes were included in the worksheet.

3 stakeholders spoke in support of the development of an electronic death registration system (EDRS). CHS is now conducting a feasibility study for EDRS, but this is outside the scope of certificate revision. Two suggestions were made for changes to the burial permit. CHS is taking these comments into consideration, but the burial permit is not included in the WAC.

19 suggestions involved minor formatting or wording changes. These suggestions were discussed internally at CHS. Of these, 12 were accepted and 7 were rejected. The external Certificate Review Team received a copy of these decisions.

30 suggestions involved more substantive changes. 14 suggested that an item be added, 11 asked to have an item deleted, and 5 suggested changes to an existing item. Most of the requests for deletions were for items that were required by the National Center for Center Health Statistics, so we could not eliminate the items. Of these:

14 suggestions were decided on at CHS: 3 were accepted and 11 were rejected. These decisions were ratified through full consensus by the Certificate Review Team.

16 suggestions were discussed and voted on by the Certificate Review Team: 6 were accepted and 10 were rejected. The major reason for rejecting suggestions was the need to limit items to save space on the form and minimize the burden on data providers.